



Fiction

THE SONG OF THE AXE.

Fathered was I by the force,
Cradled in leaping flame,
Lulled by the clink and clang
Of hammers beating in turn,
Now in the power's hand,
Tempered and polished and edged,
Swing I all day in the sun,
Swing I all night this song!

High on the mountain crest,
Where the great winds pipe and swirl,
Toward the sunset, I sit,
Noted a thousand years,
Myriad summers are waned,
And waned in their odorless shade,
Snows incensurable
Drifted their branches through;
Still their exultant heads
Rise to the limpid blue,
Still their fearless eyes
To the surge of the swirling gale,
And shout down the roar of the blast
Pensive, solemn.

Old they seem as the stars,
Moveless as living rock,
Lasting as earth itself!

Lo, then come I, the axe!
Haver a moment's rest,
In eager and breathless pose,
Then in a circle of light,
Leap to the cedar's root,
Deep and deeper I cut,
And the heart of the living wood,
And the secret of its bloodless veins,
Fills all the air with pain.
Sudden a tingling shock,
Thrills up the living trunk,
Pulses along the boughs,
Shivering resistance of death,
Vainly the mighty mass
Wrestles in agony.

Then with a stormy sigh
Trembles and yields and leans,
Sweeps with thunderous crash
Down to the heated earth!

Lo, 'tis myself I sing,
Teller of oak and ash;
Brother am I to the sword,
Red-edged slayer of men!
Side by side have we been
Paths for the living tree,
From sea to sun-kenit sent
Hark to my chanted praise!
Wild canopies of shade
Winds in the straining plumes,
Voices of woodland all,
Swelling in unison vast
Shout thro' the sunlight days,
Sing thro' the twilight hours,
The sounding chorus of the axe!

—William Lucius Graves.

The Dream That Came True.

HERE was a hint of autumn in the woodland tints, the leaves had begun to shed, the air was cool and fragrant with the perfume of the ripening fruit. The Professor smiled and looked at the children who were gathered around him, and he saw that they were all looking at him with interest and curiosity.

"What is it, Professor?" asked the little girl who was sitting next to him.

"It is a dream," he answered, "a dream that has come true."

"What dream?" asked the boy who was sitting next to her.

"It is a dream of a life of peace and happiness," he answered, "a dream of a life in which we are all united and happy."

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FARM TOPICS

Vandring Cows at Night.

The practice of bringing cows up at night is not a good one. It is far better to leave them in the pasture and milk them there, even though it makes more labor. In hot weather the cows, if allowed their freedom, will graze during the evening and early morning, while dew is in the grass, and will then lie down to digest what they have eaten. If yarning of cows is done at any time in summer it should be done in the middle of the day.

Teaching Colts to Eat Oats.

Wherever it is necessary, and often is, to work the mare while the colt is unweaned it is usual to shut up the colt in a box stall and without food or drink. This is unnecessary cruelty. If a little clover hay is placed where the colt can nibble at it, he will soon learn to eat hay, and if there is a box with a few oats in it he will learn to eat those also. This is the more important, because if the mare becomes heated while working, the milk may be injurious to the colt. The clover and oats cannot do him any harm. When a colt has learned to eat oats he can be weaned from the dam without any check to his growth. It is best in most cases that the liking for oats should be taught before the colt is weaned.

A New Hype Target.

During the dry seasons at the Michigan Station rape has been injured more or less by the bluish-green plant louse which attacks the cabbage. One year sawdust was used to destroy it, but this insect and other fields were so badly affected as to detract much from their feeding value.

No direct remedy which can be profitably used in field culture is known. Late sown fields are less liable to be attacked than those sown early. In seasons having the usual amount of rain this insect has given a daily ration of trouble, and the best that can be done is to turn in the sheep at once, even if the plants are less than half grown. After the plants have been eaten down the sheep are turned off when the rape will start up again, and if the soil is cool and moist it may produce a good second growth free from the lice, which can be again pastured late in the season.

Whole Oats For Chickens.

As an all around every day food there is nothing to equal whole oats. Of course, the hens will change, and certainly they should have it, but if forced to confine themselves to a particular grain food, should unquestionably select oats.

What is often said to be the best of all grains, but a thorough test shows that it is too fattening for a daily ration, still, for an occasional meal, wheat is highly relished.

Some complain that oats will cause swollen crops, but I have yet to see a single case which I could trace to this cause.

Any food, liberally given, with sufficient water, grit and exercise, will sooner or later bring on disorders, but oats will not cause trouble any sooner than will other foods. You can hardly give too much oats to a flock of laying hens, and I am satisfied they will be healthier and lay more eggs when fed on oats than when fed on any other whole grain. As a change occasionally the oats may be steamed a short time before being fed, but this is not necessary.—Farm and Home.

Corn Culture.

The object of corn working are threefold. First the soil must be kept from baking and thus getting too hard for the plants to thrive. Second the weeds must be kept down to prevent them from robbing the soil of its fertility and thus causing the plants to suffer for the want of moisture sufficient for their use in growth.

It has been pretty accurately ascertained that most plants use from three hundred and fifty to four hundred pounds of water for every pound of dry matter they produce. What a vast quantity of moisture may be wasted in the growth of weeds in a corn field which has been carefully cultivated and left partly to the weeds. Much of the fertility of the soil is also wasted on the growth of weeds in a weedy corn field.

Third, proper cultivation helps the soil to hold the moisture by preventing it from being evaporated. The best method of cultivation is to set the cultivator so as to stir the soil about three inches. This is not deep enough to break the roots of the corn plants and it is deep enough to kill most weeds.

It is an old theory that it is necessary to turn three inches is the best depth for developing a mulch to prevent waste by evaporation. The corn roots are usually about eight inches deep in the soil when they first reach the middle of the row and they are nearer the surface the closer the stalks you come. They are nearer the surface the older the plant gets, until maturity, hence the corn plant will bear deeper cultivation when it is young than when it gets older.

It is an old story that it is necessary to break the roots of the young corn in order to get it to grow well. This is still a common belief among farmers. The main object of the corn roots is to collect food for the growing plant and every root that is broken off the plant of a means of obtaining food for its proper nourishment. It weakens the vitality of the plant. Of course, the plant may overcome the injury, but it will not make as perfect a plant as it would if it had not had its roots broken.—A. J. Legg, in Farm, Field and Fireside.

An Artificial Silver Mine.

How Uncle Sam Checks the Waste of the Coin-Makers in the Mint.

In one corner of the melting room at the New Orleans mint is a large iron tank in which the newly cast silver bars are dissolved in nitric acid. At the end of a hard day's work the surface of the water shows a faint rainbow-hued seam, like the metallic lustre of stagnant pools, seen near a dye house. It comes in part from microscopic flakes of silver that have settled off in the cooling. The water, when changed, runs down a pipe that terminates in the bottom of a cistern, which contains a layer of mud couple of feet deep. As the water seeps up and through the mud, it carries off the silver, and catches the particles of precious metal, so in time it becomes an artificial silver mine. Once every quarter the stuff is scooped out and passed through a series of sieves. The result is a silver brick, worth maybe \$50. When it comes to money-making, Uncle Sam can beat the world for stinginess. The artificial silver mine in the yard of the old mint premises is only one of his numerous schemes for checking waste. When the casters raise their glowing ladles from the melting pots a shower of sparks fly from the molten surface. They are mostly minute particles of carbon, but among them are particles of silver, and when the fire boxes are raked out at night the contents are hungrily preserved. Down below, in the basement, is a great revolving crusher that grinds the debris into fine powder, and when enough accumulates it is sold by sample to a Northern smelter and treated like ordinary ore. Nor is this all. Every evening the floor of the melting room is swept far more carefully than ever a lady's parlor and the sweepings are preserved along with the ashes. Once in three months or so the soot is scraped out of all the flues and chimneys and finds its way to the same receptacle. From the ashes, clinkers, sweepings and soot of the New Orleans mint Uncle Sam derives a larger income than the average bank president. The crucibles used in melting are good for about three charges; then they are wheeled down to the basement, crushed, and share the fate of the clinkers. The pores of their earthy walls are full of virgin silver, and the gritty brown powder into which they are ground yields an average of \$200 a ton. A worn crucible is really worth more than a new one.

What a Lead Pencil Really Is.

The lead pencil is said to be made of lead, but it is not. It is made of a mixture of graphite and clay. The graphite is a form of carbon, and the clay is a mixture of silicates. The mixture is pressed into a rod, and then the rod is heated in a furnace to burn off the volatile matter. The result is a hard, black rod, which is then cut into pencils.

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GOOD ROADS NOTES

A Vacationer's Thought.

The country's pleasant, sure enough. But not so much as it used to be. It is now so rough and rough that it is almost impossible to travel in it. The roads are in such a state of disrepair that it is almost impossible to travel in it.

What Poor Roads Cost Our Farmers.

If there were two classes of people that had a good case in common, they would be the bicyclist and the farmer. The question is a simple one: the farmer's interests are that of the need for good roads; for while a hard, smooth surface is an absolute necessity to the wheelman, it is of even more vital importance to the farmer, seeing that the condition of the roads makes a serious difference one way or the other in his yearly profits. As the result of an inquiry made in 1893 by the United States Department of Agriculture, replies were received from over 1200 counties giving the cost of hauling crops in various parts of the United States. The average load hauled was found to be 2000 pounds; the average length of haul, 12-15 miles; the average cost of hauling a ton of crops to market was \$3.03; while the average cost of hauling a ton for a distance of one mile was twenty-five cents.

Order to Compare the Roads of the United States.

The bureau through its consular careful inquiry on the subject of cost of hauling in England, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, and Switzerland. The average cost of hauling one ton one mile was found to be in England ten cents, in France ten cents, in Germany eight cents, in Belgium nine cents, in Italy seven cents, and in Switzerland six cents. The average cost of hauling one ton one mile in the United States was found to be twenty-five cents.

The Englishman was Routed.

At the time of the New Orleans exposition, in the winter of 1884-5, Admiral Luce, who won the retired list, was in command of the North Atlantic squadron, and was sent down there to add to the gaudy of nations, which no other old seadog could do better than he. Upon his return to his country, he was anchored in New York bay, where it was visited by many people. One day a party came aboard which included among others a very pretty girl and a very distinguished Englishman. As Admiral Luce was entertaining them in his cabin he asked the pretty girl if she would like to see an original autograph of William Shakespeare. At this the distinguished Englishman remarked that he had made a study of the autographs of Shakespeare, and was positive there was no authentic example in America. Admiral Luce replied that he was very positive his autograph was authentic, and that his genuine name had never been questioned. This made the Englishman quite hot, and he delivered a lecture on the fraudulent autographs and manuscripts that were brought over to America and exhibited as originals.

Prices Paid for Manuscripts.

The highest price ever paid for a piece of manuscript was \$8000 for Homer's Iliad, written on vellum, probably in the eighth century. It is now in the British Museum. A manuscript bible which was presented to the Emperor Charlemagne in the year 800 was sold at auction some years ago for \$7500. That is also in the British Museum. The original manuscript of Scott's "Lady of the Lake" brought \$6,450 at Christie's auction, and the manuscript of "The Tale of Genji" brought \$5,000. The manuscript of "The Tale of Genji" brought \$5,000. The manuscript of "The Tale of Genji" brought \$5,000.

North and South are Joined in the material of the national capital.

The central building is constructed of Virginia sandstone, and the extensions are of Massachusetts marble, and twenty-four columns of the grand central portico are monoliths of Virginia sandstone thirty feet high, and one hundred columns of the extension portico are of Maryland marble.

Why Do You Suffer?

When you suffer from any of the following ailments, it is because you neglect to keep your blood pure. It appears in eruptions, dyspepsia, indigestion, nervousness, kidney diseases, and other ailments. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures all diseases promoted by impure blood or low state of the system.

"For the Sake of Fun Mischief is Done."

A vast amount of mischief is done, too, because people neglect to keep their blood pure. It appears in eruptions, dyspepsia, indigestion, nervousness, kidney diseases, and other ailments. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures all diseases promoted by impure blood or low state of the system.

After a convict has served out his time in the State prison of Maine and has been released, he is given a ticket by the State. He is to sit for his photograph, and it is kept for future use, should his subsequent career call for it. Heretofore only the picture taken upon commitment has been kept, and this has been found of little avail in later years.

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The Vicissitudes of an Emperor.

The vicissitudes which Louis Napoleon experienced almost from the cradle to the grave were probably all unexampled. He was a fugitive before he could speak articulately. In the interval between his 20th and his 40th year he was a prisoner in Strasbourg, Lorient, Ham and the Conciergerie. He was an outlaw for more than half his life. There were incidents, at Strasbourg, later at Boulogne, which brought upon him the mock and jeer of Europe. He carried a baton as a special constable in Park Lane on Chartists' Day. Then, by a sudden turn of fortune, he became President of the French Republic. The coup d'Etat made him Emperor of the French; and thenceforth for fifteen years he was, perhaps, the most-considered man of Europe. It was said of him that on being asked whether he should not find it difficult to rule the French nation he replied, "Oh, nothing is more easy. I just use guerre tous les quatre ans." (They just need a war every four years.) This policy held good in a modified degree. The Crimean war was for him a success, although not precisely a triumph; the Italian campaign, in spite of its hard-fought victories, ended abruptly in approximation to a failure. The Mexican expedition was an utter fiasco. Yet Napoleon might have gone on with his program of a war every four years but for the circumstances that there happened to be in Europe in the mid-nineteenth century an infinite array more masterful and more ruse man than the dreamy and decaying Napoleon. When he and Bismarck walked along the Biarritz beach in October, 1875, Bismarck expounding his political position as they strolled, "Is he mad?" the Emperor whispered to Premier Merimee, on whose arm he leaned. Napoleon had very soon to recognize that madness had no part in the character of Otto von Bismarck. The Prussian Premier was his superior in every respect, and his program of a war every four years was a mere dream.

Beauty is Blood Keep.

Clean blood means a clean skin. No beauty without it. Cascares, Candy Cathartic, cleans your blood and keeps it clean, by stirring up the lazy liver and driving all impurities from the body. Begin to-day to change your complexion. To grow a sample, send for a box of Cascares, at all drug stores and health food stores. At all drug stores, satisfaction guaranteed. 10c, 25c, 50c.

In China as well as Many Parts of the United States.

It is a fact that in many parts of the United States, and in China as well, the people are suffering from a disease called "the plague." This disease is caused by a germ called "the plague germ." It is a very dangerous disease, and it is very easy to catch. It is very easy to catch because it is so common. It is very easy to catch because it is so common.

General Weyler, at Madrid, has declared himself a Federalist Republican.

General Weyler, at Madrid, has declared himself a Federalist Republican. He has declared himself a Federalist Republican because he is a Federalist Republican. He has declared himself a Federalist Republican because he is a Federalist Republican.

Don't Take Spleen and Smoke Your Life Away.

Don't take spleen and smoke your life away. It is a very dangerous habit, and it is very easy to catch. It is very easy to catch because it is so common. It is very easy to catch because it is so common.

Is your breath bad? Then your best friends turn their heads aside.

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Constitution.

Constitution is a very important thing. It is a very important thing because it is a very important thing. It is a very important thing because it is a very important thing.

Candy Cathartic.

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Carter's Ink.

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Winchester.

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At Your Dealer for Allen's Foot-Ease.

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